

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, implanted at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
2. (Currently amended) The stent of Claim 21, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
3. (Currently amended) The stent of Claim 21, wherein the depth of the implanted  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not greater than about 2000 Å from the surface of the stent.
4. (Currently amended) The stent of Claim 21, additionally comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound deposited on the region of the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
5. (Original) The stent of Claim 4, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
6. (Original) The stent of Claim 4, wherein the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not more than about 48,000 Å in thickness.
7. (Original) The stent of Claim 1, wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
8. (Original) The stent of Claim 1, wherein the surface is the tissue-contacting surface of the stent.
9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The stent of Claim 1 comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  and a layer of Ti, N, or TiN disposed beneath the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$ .
10. (Original) The stent of Claim 9, wherein a region of the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  is implanted at a depth within a surface of the stent.
11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The stent of Claim 1 comprising a surface and a  $\text{TiN}_xC_y$  compound deposited on at least a region of the surface of the stent.
12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The stent of Claim 1 comprising a surface and a  $\text{TiN}_xC_y$  compound implanted at a depth within at least region of the surface of the stent.

13. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a surface of a stent, comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, at a depth within a surface of the stent.
14. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 13~~, Claim 22 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
15. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 13~~, Claim 22 additionally comprising forming a layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound on the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein prior to the act of implanting the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, within the surface of the stent, the method comprises implanting Ti or N within the surface of the stent.
19. (Original) A method of modifying a stent surface, comprising implanting Ti, N, or TiN into the surface of the stent and forming a layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound over the areas where Ti, N, or TiN has been implanted.
20. (Original) A method of modifying a surface of a stent, comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{C}_y$  compound at a depth within a surface of the stent or depositing the compound on the surface of the stent.
21. (New) A stent comprising a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound implanted at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
22. (New) The method of Claim 13, comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound at a depth within a surface of the stent.